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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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- As technical associations, the Verein Deutscher Ingenieure (VDI) and the Verein Deutscher Elektrotechniker (VDE) assumed great importance not only in Germany but also beyond its borders. Both were located in Berlin and belonged to the Nationalsozialistischer Bund Deutscher Technik (NSBDT), which according to Control Council Law No. 2 was listed among the outlawed organizations. By decree of the Allied Komendatura in Berlin the VDI* was dissolved in 1945 and the VDE on 6 May 1946. Both associations maintained numerous district associations and committees which were also considered dissolved.
- The vacuum created by the dissolution of the VDI and VDE was to be filled by the establishment of an organization sponsored by the CIA and SED. This organization was to include all scientists and technicians in Germany, and was to afford them the opportunity to contribute to the "peaceful reconstruction of Germany without pressure from capitalism and militarism". Under this slogan the Free German Trade Union Associations (FDGB) founded the Kammern der Technik (Chamber of Technology) in the hope of developing it into a four-zonal mass organization which eventually would include all German scientists and technicians. However, the approval of the statutes of the KdT which were submitted to the Allied Komendatura was delayed, and in order to force a decision, the CIA licensed the Chamber of Technology on 8 May 1946 for the Russian Occupation Zone.
- Prof Dr. Ing. Heidebroeck, member of the LDP (Liberal Democratic Party) and one-time rector of the Technical University, Dresden, was appointed president of the KdT. In 1949 Heidebroeck was replaced by Prof. Heinrich H. Franck of the Technical University, Berlin, a man whose Communist tendencies have become more and more pronounced within the last two years. The position of vice president of the KdT was given to engineer Max Guenther, while Ing. Scholz became administrative director. Both were members of the SPD, later joined the SED and are still at their jobs in the main office of the KdT, Berlin, Unter den Linden 12. The KdT does not collect dues from its members but is financed mainly by the FDGB. It also receives subventions from public funds, for example from the DfK. It was previously financed by the Zentralverwaltung Industrie (see paragraph 15 of the attached statutes). On 30 June 1949 the Magistrate of East Berlin allotted 50,000 DM to the KdT.

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4. Shortly after its foundation the KdF published the periodical Die Technik. This paper, as well as other publications by the KdF, is published by the Verlag Technik GmbH, Berlin, Dorotheenstrasse 41. Profits of this publishing house are turned over to the KdF. The editor of Die Technik was Dr. Kurt Gehlhoff who resigned last year. Gehlhoff succeeded in raising Die Technik to such a high standard that it could be considered equal to the former VDI publication. He was also able to get many West Zone collaborators who sent contributions to the periodical. Since at that time the West Zones did not have any technical periodical, Die Technik, was bought eagerly there and by numerous subscribers.
5. The KdF has been unable to make any inroads in the West Zone, and even in the East Zone the political influence which the SED hoped for has been anything but spectacular. Nor has the KdF achieved anything of importance in technical and scientific fields. Research work in technical fields equalling that of the VDI has not been accomplished by the KdF. The only success the KdF could score was the illegal publication of the VDE regulations. These VDE regulations were stolen [redacted] because of the KdF's utter mediocrity and its failure to become an efficient political weapon, the SMA, SED and FDGB soon regarded it with disfavor and merely tolerated it. 50X1-HUM
6. Lately, however, the picture changed and the KdF is gaining importance again. Since the establishment of the national front in the East Zone the KdF is to be used as a connecting link between the nationalistic scientists and technicians of the East and West Zones. In order to further this approach a big convention took place on 18 September 1949 in Berlin which included inspection tours in the East Zone. The meeting started at 10:30 in the Convention Hall of the DMK with Prof. Heinrich Franck holding a discourse about the theme "The German Technical Intelligentsia and the National Front". Other lectures dealt with economy, technical matters, and national unity, as well as the technical intelligentsia fighting for the nation. There were 100 visitors from the West Zones, a success about which the KdF was very proud. From 28 September until 30 September 1949 the first annual conventions of the electro-technicians of the KdF will take place in Weimar. Fritz Selbmann, vice president of the DMK, will speak about the German Technical Intelligentsia and the National Front. This convention also includes inspection tours into the East Zone for the purpose of convincing the West Zone visitors of the technical progress made there and to proselytize them to the idea of the national front. At the main office of the KdF the important political tasks of the organization are quite openly discussed.
7. Besides the main office which is located at Unter den Linden 12, the KdF also maintains offices at Rungestrasse. Its ultimate aim, however, is to move into the former VDI house at Brandenburger Tor as soon as the SMA gives its permission and approves funds for reconstruction.
8. Chiefs of the various subdepartments (Fachabteilung) mentioned in paragraph 6 of the statutes are as follows:
 - a. Forschung und Lehre - Dipl. Ing. Junghanns
 - b. Bergbau, etc. - Dipl. Ing. Landgreber
 - c. Energie - Ing. Sonnenstuhl
 - d. Mechanische Technik und Metallurgie - Dipl. Ing. Theile
 - e. Verkehr - Dipl. Ing. Scheibe (will leave soon)

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All of the above Fachabteilungen are located at Unter den Linden 12.

The following Fachabteilungen are located at Rungenstrasse:

- a. Chemische Technik - Ing. Chem. Gogol
- b. Elektrotechnik - Physiker Nienhold
- c. Faserstoffe - Ing. Chem. Gogol
- d. *architecture* Bauwesen - Architekt Hamann

Other sections of the KdF are:

- a. *Standardization* Normung - Ob. Ing. Loesch
- b. *Leads Studies* Arbeitsstudien - Ob. Ing. Grupinski
- c. Patentwesen - Dipl. Ing. Wittmann
- d. *Library* Blöcherel Schmidt
- e. *Business Section* Mitgliederabteilung - Poetsch

9. In the beginning of 1949 the KdF had approximately 8,000 members. This number has increased considerably during the course of this year and reached 12,000 in June. According to the main office of the KdF 20,000 members were registered in September, 300 of whom live in the West Zone. 50X1-HUM

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